

GALLUP POLL

Capital March Opposed 3-1

BY GEORGE GALLUP

Copyright, 1963, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N.J.—Although many Americans sympathize with the Negro's view on civil rights, many more have definite misgivings about Wednesday's march on Washington as a way to further this cause.

A nationwide Gallup Poll completed during the last week reveals that those who disapprove of the Washington demonstration outnumber those who approve by a ratio of nearly three to one.

The minority — the one person in roughly five—who argues in favor of the much publicized rally says that it will dramatize the Negro's demands and their determination to gain equal rights.

"If there's a place to prove a point, it's Washington," said an Anaheim (Cal.) man.

Doubtful 'If'

But even among those who make up the group which supports the march, there are many who add a qualified "if" to their approval—"if things are carried out peacefully."

"Anyone has the right to go to Washington," and Erie (Pa.) accountant remarked, "but it's dangerous. No one can be sure that it won't get out of hand."

During recent days, Gallup Poll interviewers were at work across the nation talking to both whites and Negroes in a survey sample designed to be representative of the views of the American public.

Evidence that the demonstration has created great interest from coast to coast is the high proportion who say that they have heard or read about the proposed mass civil rights rally to be held in Washington on Wednesday. A total of 69% were found to be aware of

the march—which is a high awareness figure for events of this order.

Those who had followed the news of the demonstration were asked to give their views about it. They were asked:

What are your feelings about this rally?

In every section of the country, those who disapprove or who say that the march won't accomplish anything, far outnumber those who give it their approval. For the country as a whole the answers add up this way:

Favorable to the rally	22%
Unfavorable	63
Undecided	15

Among the 63% who disapprove of the rally, 8% predict violence and 17% volunteered that "it won't accomplish anything."

As a means for influencing legislation, mass demonstrations apparently have little appeal for Americans.

In July, the Gallup Poll reported that six out of every 10 Americans believe mass demonstrations by Negroes are more likely to hurt than to help their efforts to obtain racial equality.

Coupled with a distrust of the effectiveness of large demonstrations is the attitude, shared by some, that Negroes are pressing their case too hard, and that such efforts may actually work against them.